

From: Connie and Tom Forster
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

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The Microsoft litigation has gone on long enough. The people at Microsoft are not saints, but neither are their competitors.

* Most of the states that are still pursuing the litigation have budget problems of their own, so their motives are mixed to say the least.

* Many of the class action trial lawyers feel that getting money and software products to some schools is a better idea than spending it covering legal fees. I've bought Microsoft products for years. How large a check am I likely to get in the mail if a class action lawsuit were to prevail?

* Finally a word about Microsoft's theme about being free to innovate. I recently upgraded to Windows XP, and have been quite pleased at the number of new and improved features that this operating system contains, everything from a good web browser, to an improved backup and a firewall that really works. Plus literally dozens of additional features. Certainly most consumers don't want to have to buy each of these features separately, and then keep them updated.

Microsoft does ensure that its office products work well with its operating system. But the settlement which it reached with the Justice Department will make it very difficult to Microsoft to interfere with the development and marketing of good competitive products.

I hope that in when the District Court decides this issue, it will accept the proposed settlement. What I fear most is not Microsoft, but rather excessive regulation of the software and technology industries.

Sincerely,
Tom Forster